

Bowl for Kids event raises \$33,500

By **KAYLA STEWART**, Gazette Writer

HANCOCK - Ted Ricci sat for a rest after taking his turn bowling Saturday and wasn't down for a minute before 9-year-old Dylan Harma hopped onto his lap. Harma wasn't really interested in the lane in front of him, there was just too much going on around him.

The Copper Bowl Lanes in Hancock were transformed into a boisterous vendor of Hawaii - served to the 14th annual Cooper Bowl for Kids participants via hula hoops, pizza, floral print shirts, strung flowers on the walls and around necks, grass skirts and tropical trivia.

The event was the sole fundraiser for the local branch of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, a matching service that provides older mentors for young boys and girls who are absent a parent. The event, which typically brings in around \$28,000 year, raised \$33,500 at the event this year with 47 teams and 229 bowlers, said program director Maggie Munch.

"It was a really great day," she said.

But on Saturday, Harma wasn't thinking about money. It was just another day he got to hang out with his "older brother." As with the other matches, the two meet at least once a week for activities and time together.

"We go hunting," Dylan said with a large smile.

They've been a match for two years, but Ricci has been in the program much longer. His mentoring began back in 1998 when he was matched with 10-year-old Trent. With Ricci's lakeside property, the two spent time swimming, fishing, boating and jet skiing.

"I taught him to water ski and knee board," Ricci said.

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